

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A print order acceptance system for accepting an order for printing images on the basis of digital image data, wherein the system comprises:

5        an order acceptance machine which accepts digital image data and order information and transfers the image data and the order information to an image printer; and

10        a voucher printer which prints a voucher including thumbnail images and details of an order on the basis of the order information, the thumbnail images corresponding to image data which have been accepted by the order acceptance machine and have been transferred to the image printer.

15        2. The print order acceptance system according to claim 1, wherein the voucher printed by the voucher printer is used for ascertaining printouts of images at the time of receipt of printouts of images printed by the image printer on the basis of the image data that have been transferred to the image printer.

20        3. The print order acceptance system according to claim 1, wherein the order acceptance machine has means for displaying images on the basis of the accepted image data and transfers, to the image printer, image data pertaining to images selected from the displayed images.

25        4. The print order acceptance system according to any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein the order acceptance machine accepts thumbnail image data as well as the digital image data.

5. The print order acceptance system according to any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein the order acceptance machine produces thumbnail image

data from the accepted digital image data.

6. A print order acceptance system for accepting an order for printing images on the basis of digital image data, wherein the system comprises:

5        an order acceptance machine which accepts digital image data and order information and transfers the image data and the order information to an image printer; and

10        electronic mail transmission means which transmits, to a person who has placed an order and in the form of an electronic mail, the order information and thumbnail images of the images which have been accepted by the order acceptance machine and transferred to the image printer.

15        7. The print order acceptance system according to claim 6, wherein the order acceptance machine has means for displaying images on the basis of the accepted image data and transfers, to the image printer, image data pertaining to images selected from the displayed images.

20        8. The print order acceptance system according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the order acceptance machine accepts thumbnail image data as well as the digital image data.

25        9. The print order acceptance system according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the order acceptance machine produces thumbnail image data from the accepted digital image data.

10. A print order acceptance method for accepting an order for printing images on the basis of digital image data, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

transferring to an image printer ordered image data and order information; and

instructing a voucher printer to print a voucher including thumbnail images and details of the order on the basis of the order information, the  
5 thumbnail images corresponding to image data which have been transferred to the image printer.

11. A print order acceptance method for accepting an order for printing images on the basis of digital image data, wherein the method comprises the  
10 steps of:

transferring to an image printer ordered image data and order information; and

transmitting, to a person who has placed the order and in the form of an electronic mail, thumbnail images corresponding to image data which have  
15 been transferred to the image printer and the order information.